

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 16-17 have been added. Claims 1-17 are pending and under consideration.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at pages 2-3, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Greef (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,129).

Greef does not discuss or suggest “an account information input/output section that obtains first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network” and “a creation unit that creates second purchase information concerning an item to be purchased by the second person, based on the first purchase information searched,” as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides an apparatus that is independent from any single online shopping service provider. As a consequence, the apparatus is capable of creating purchase information from a plurality of service providers (i.e. online retailers), thereby allowing the second person (i.e. shopper) to manage a plurality of accounts with just a single apparatus. Also, the invention of claim 1 allows the first person (i.e. sales associate) access to a plurality of service providers, thereby increasing the number of items that can be presented to the second person, resulting in a better overall online shopping experience. Greef, as relied upon by the Examiner, discloses an electronic commerce catalog system that can be configured for the specific needs of a customer or proxy customer. However, Greef does not provide a shopper with access to a plurality of service providers. In fact, Greef provides access only to products available in a selected catalog. Furthermore, Greef does not provide a sales associate access to a plurality of service providers for providing purchase information of items selected from an item list.

Since Greef does not discuss or suggest “an account information input/output section that obtains first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network,” as recited in amended claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Greef. Accordingly, withdrawal of this § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference

relied upon. Therefore, claims 2-7 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Greef does not discuss or suggest “obtaining first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network” and “creating second purchase information concerning an item to be purchased by the second person, based on the first purchase information searched,” as recited in amended claims 8 and 15. Therefore, claims 8 and 15 patentably distinguish over Greef. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-14 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 8, and include all the features of claim 8, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 9-14 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

II. New Claims

As discussed above, Greef does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1. New claim 16 depends from claim 1 and includes all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claim 16 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Thus, it is submitted that new claim 16 is in a condition suitable for allowance.

Greef does not discuss or suggest “an account information input/output section that obtains first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network” and “a creation unit that creates second purchase information concerning an item to be purchased by a second person, based on the first purchase information obtained,” as recited in new claim 17. Therefore, claim 17 patentably distinguishes over Greef. Thus, it is submitted that new claim 17 is in a condition suitable for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-17 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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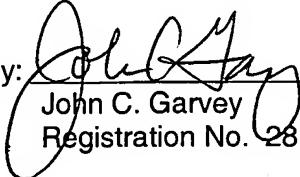
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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